

p. 83: 3 [adapted from latex HW of Colin McKinney]

Show that the collection  $\mathcal{T}_c$  given in Example 4 of §12 is a topology on the set  $X$ .

$\mathcal{T}_c := \{U \mid X - U \text{ is countable or all of } X\}$ . First, we must ensure that  $X$  and  $\emptyset$  are elements of  $\mathcal{T}_c$ . For  $U = \emptyset$ ,  $X - \emptyset = X$ . Thus,  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{T}_c$ . For  $U = X$ ,  $X - X = \emptyset$ . The null set is finite, and so it is also countable. Hence  $X \in \mathcal{T}_c$ .

We must also show that  $\mathcal{T}_c$  is closed under arbitrary unions. Take  $U_\alpha \in \mathcal{T}_c$ . Since  $X - U_\alpha$  can be either countable or all of  $X$ , we must consider two cases.

**Case 1 :** There exists an  $\alpha_0$  such that  $X - U_{\alpha_0}$  countable.  $X - \cup U_\alpha = \cap(X - U_\alpha)$ , and since  $X - U_{\alpha_0}$  is countable, and  $\cap(X - U_\alpha) \subset X - U_{\alpha_0}$ , it follows that  $\cap(X - U_\alpha)$  is countable. Hence  $X - \cup U_\alpha$  is countable, and so in this case  $\cup U_\alpha \in \mathcal{T}_c$ .

**Case 2 :**  $X - U_\alpha$  is all of  $X$  for all  $\alpha$ . Hence  $U_\alpha = \emptyset$  for all  $\alpha$ . It follows that  $\cup U_\alpha = \emptyset \in \mathcal{T}_c$ .

Hence  $\mathcal{T}_c$  is closed under arbitrary unions.

Lastly we must show that  $\mathcal{T}_c$  is closed under finite intersections. Take  $U_i \in \mathcal{T}_c$ .

**Case 1 :**  $X - U_i$  countable for all  $i$ . A finite union of countable sets is also countable. By Problem 1.0 of Homework 1, we may write

$$X - \bigcap_{i=1}^n U_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^n (X - U_i) \quad (1)$$

Since  $\cup(X - U_i)$  is countable, the left hand side of (1) is also countable. Thus,  $\cup_{i=1}^n U_i \in \mathcal{T}_c$  in this case.

**Case 2 :**  $X - U_{i_0}$  is all of  $X$  for some  $i_0 \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Hence  $U_{i_0} = \emptyset$ , and  $\cap_{i=1}^n U_i = \emptyset \in \mathcal{T}_c$ .

Thus,  $\mathcal{T}_c$  is closed under finite intersections.  $\mathcal{T}_c$  has thus satisfied all the requirements to be a topology.

Is  $\mathcal{T}_\infty := \{U \mid X - U \text{ is infinite, empty, or all of } X\}$  a topology on  $X$ ?

If  $X$  is infinite,  $U_x = \{x\} \in \mathcal{T}_\infty$ , where  $x$  is any element of  $X$  since  $X - U_x$  would remain infinite. However, let us define an indexing set  $Y := X - \{x_1, x_2\}$ , where  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are two distinct elements of  $X$ . Hence

$$X - \bigcup_{x \in Y} U_x = \{x_1, x_2\}. \quad (2)$$

Since  $\{x_1, x_2\}$  is finite,  $X - \cup_{x \in Y} U_x$  is finite. Hence  $\cup_{x \in Y} U_x$  is not an element of  $\mathcal{T}_\infty$ . Thus when  $X$  is infinite,  $\mathcal{T}_\infty$  is not a topology since it is not closed under unions.

Suppose  $X$  is finite. Note  $\emptyset$  and  $X$  are elements of  $\mathcal{T}_\infty$ . If  $U = \emptyset$ , then  $X - U = X$ , so  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{T}_\infty$ . If  $U = X$ , then  $X - X = \emptyset$ , and so  $X \in \mathcal{T}_\infty$ .

Let  $U \in \mathcal{T}_\infty$ . Since  $X$  is finite,  $X - U$  is not infinite. Thus  $X - U = \emptyset$  or  $X - U = X$ . Thus,  $U = X$  or  $U = \emptyset$ . Hence  $\mathcal{T}_\infty$  is the indiscrete topology and is thus a topology.